

Statement by
Mr. Rubio, Assistant Manager
Riverside Agricultural Association
Mexican National Camp
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A lot of the men here are very anxious to learn English. Not the written kind, you understand, so much as the conversational kind. Of course, they would like to be able to read and write at also, but primarily they just want to be able to speak it and understand it. They would like to be able to talk to the merchants in town, for an example. We used to have an arrangement where the men would go in private cars into classes in town under the Adult Education Plan, but we had all kinds of trouble. These classes which start right on time at 7, let us say, and the men might not get in from the orchards until 5:30 or 6; and they would have to eat and clean up and so they would frequently miss their ride into town and weren't able to keep up with the class. So a number of the men have gotten together and talked this over with me and they asked me to find out if we couldn't have a teacher come here into the camp on a regular basis. ~~at~~ It might be a good idea to have the classes Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings and ~~that~~ would leave ~~them~~ time in between for the men to prepare their lessons. Now when I say these men are really interested, I mean it. They have gone so far as to agree to pay something like a \$1 per week per man; so I could practically guarantee any teacher who comes out here that he would make \$25 or \$30 a week. If you know of anybody who would be interested, please let me know. It seems to me that this would be a good time to start such a series of classes because ~~of~~ many of the teachers are currently on vacation. Incidentally most of our men ~~will~~ here in camp will be here until October, so this would allow 3 or 4 months of classes and I think they could learn a great deal in that time. Now you understand that who ever gave these English lessons would have to begin at the very beginning. These men have no conception of English at the present time. I have tried to teach them a little bit, but couldn't

even get over the idea that a word is not pronounced by pronouncing the individual letters, but comes out sounding different from the letters when they are pronounced separately.